


FORM PTO 1390 (REV. 5-93)		US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER 2002_0275A
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. §371				U.S. APPLICATION NO. 151070386
International Application No. PCT/JP00/06104	International Filing Date September 7, 2000	Priority Date Claimed September 7, 1999		
Title of Invention REGULATORY SEQUENCES AND EXPRESSION SYSTEMS FUNCTIONING IN FILAMENTOUS FUNGI				
Applicant(s) For DO/EO/US Manabu WATANABE, Takeshi MURAKAMI				
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:				
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. §371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. §371. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. §371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. §371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(2)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(2)). ATTACHMENT A 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(3)). a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19. 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An executed oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(4)). ATTACHMENT B 10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. §371(c)(5)). Items 11. to 14. below concern other document(s) or information included: 11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. ATTACHMENT C 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. ATTACHMENT D 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. ATTACHMENT E <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 14. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: - Cover Letter with 1 deposit receipt - ATTACHMENT F				

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
 TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
 FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
 ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

U.S. APPLICATION NO. NEW 10/070388		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/06104		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 2002 0275A					
15. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee nor international search fee paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1040.00 International Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO \$ 890.00 International preliminary examination fee not paid to USPTO but international search paid to USPTO \$ 740.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO but claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$ 690.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$ 100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width:50%;">CALCULATIONS</th> <th style="width:50%;">PTO USE ONLY</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 100px; vertical-align: bottom;">\$890.00</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		CALCULATIONS	PTO USE ONLY	\$890.00	
CALCULATIONS	PTO USE ONLY								
\$890.00									
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$					
Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate						
Total Claims	22 -20 =	2	X \$18.00	\$36.00					
Independent Claims	- 3 =		X \$84.00	\$					
Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)			+ \$280.00	\$					
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$926.00					
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Status is hereby asserted. Above fees are reduced by 1/2.				\$					
SUBTOTAL =				\$926.00					
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				+	\$				
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$926.00					
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40 per property +				\$40.00					
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$966.00					
				Amount to be refunded	\$				
				Amount to be charged	\$				
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$966.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. A duplicate copy of this form is enclosed. b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. 23-0975 in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-0975.									
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.									
19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS <div style="text-align: center;">  000513 PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE </div>			By: <u>Warren M. Cheek, Jr.</u> Warren M. Cheek, Jr., Registration No. 33,367 WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P. 2033 "K" Street, N.W., Suite 800 Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Phone: (202) 721-8200 Fax: (202) 721-8250 March 6, 2002						

[CHECK NO. 49177]
 [2002_0275A]

10070386 .030602

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of	:	Confirmation No. 2874
Manabu WATANABE et al.	:	Docket No. 2002-0275A
Serial No. 10/070,386	:	Group Art Unit Not Yet Assigned
Filed March 6, 2002	:	Examiner Not Yet Assigned
REGULATORY SEQUENCES AND EXPRESSION SYSTEMS FUNCTIONING IN FILAMENTOUS FUNGI	:	THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY AGENCY IN THE FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Notice dated May 7, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the Sequence Listing of record with the attached substitute Sequence Listing.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are presented to place the application in compliance with the sequence rules under 37 CFR 1.821-1.825.

Applicants have submitted a revised Sequence Listing in both paper and computer readable form as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.821(c) and (e). Amendments directing its entry into the specification have also been incorporated herein. The content of the paper and computer readable copies are the same and no new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that each requirement set forth in the Notice has been satisfied, and that the application is now in compliance with the sequence rules under 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. Accordingly, favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

A copy of the English translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report is also enclosed to complete the PTO file, since the Notice of Missing Requirements does not confirm receipt thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

Manabu WATANABE et al.

By: Warren M. Cheek, Jr.
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May 21, 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
Manabu WATANABE et al. : Attn: BOX PCT
Serial No. NEW : Docket No. 2002_0275A
Filed March 6, 2002 :

REGULATORY SEQUENCES AND EXPRESSION
SYSTEMS FUNCTIONING IN FILAMENTOUS FUNGI
[Corresponding to PCT/JP00/06104
Filed September 7, 2000]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculating the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after the title please insert the following sentence:

This application is a 371 of PCT/JP00/06104 filed September 7, 2000.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

11. **(Amended)** An expression vector comprising the promoter or the fragment thereof according to claim 1.

12. **(Amended)** An expression vector comprising the terminator or the fragment thereof of claim 6.

ATTACHMENT E

13. **(Amended)** An expression vector comprising a promoter comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the following sequences, and a fragment thereof having promoter activity:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence that has at least 70% homology to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and has promoter activity,
- (c) a modified nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 that has one or more modifications selected from a substitution, a deletion, an addition and an insertion and has promoter activity, and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes with a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions and has promoter activity, together with a terminator comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the following sequences, and a fragment thereof having terminator activity:
 - (e) a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2,
 - (f) a nucleotide sequence that has at least 70% homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and has terminator activity,
 - (g) a modified nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 that has one or more modifications selected from a substitution, a deletion, an addition and an insertion and having terminator activity, and
 - (h) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes with a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 under stringent conditions and has terminator activity.

15. **(Amended)** The expression vector according to claim 11, which further comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein of interest, wherein the nucleotide sequence is operably linked to the promoter and/or the terminator.

16. **(Amended)** A host transformed with the expression vector of claim 15.

18. **(Amended)** A method for producing a protein of interest, which comprises culturing the host of claim 16 and collecting the protein of interest from the culture medium.

Please add the following new claims:

19. **(New)** The expression vector according to claim 13, which further comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein of interest, wherein the nucleotide sequence is operably linked to the promoter and/or the terminator.

20. **(New)** A host transformed with the expression vector of claim 19.

21. **(New)** The host according to claim 20, wherein the host is Mycelia sterilia.

22. **(New)** A method for producing a protein of interest, which comprises culturing the host of claim 20 and collecting the protein of interest from the culture medium.

REMARKS

The specification has been revised to reflect the national stage status. The claims has been amended to remove the multiple dependencies, in order to eliminate the improper multiple dependencies and to reduce the PTO filing fee.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Manabu WATANABE et al.

By Warren M. Cheek, Jr.
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March 6, 2002

REGULATORY SEQUENCES AND EXPRESSION SYSTEMS FUNCTIONING IN
FILAMENTOUS FUNGI

This application is a 371 of PCT/JP00/06104 filed September 7, 2000.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to promoters and terminators which function in filamentous fungi, expression vectors comprising the same, and hosts transformed by said vectors.

Description of the Related Art

10 The filamentous fungus strain PF1022 (Mycelia sterilia) (FERM BP-2671) produces substance PF1022 which is a 24-membered cyclic depsipeptide having a vermifugal activity. This strain has been classified into Agonomycetes since it forms no sexual or asexual organ (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No.
15 35796/1991).

On the other hand, a transformant of the strain PF1022 has been obtained by introducing a plasmid in which the TAKA-amylase gene derived from Aspergillus oryzae is ligated along with a drug resistance gene into the strain PF1022 (W097/00944).

20 However, the regulatory DNA sequence of the TAKA-amylase gene derived from Aspergillus oryzae reported in W097/00944 is a regulatory DNA sequence derived from a strain of heterologous species. Moreover, genetic characteristics of Mycelia sterilia have not sufficiently been revealed and the condition to satisfy
25 expression vector systems has not been elucidated. Accordingly, it is not clear whether gene expression in a transformant having a regulatory sequence derived from a strain of heterologous species can be coordinately regulated with the expression of an endogenous gene in the strain PF1022. Furthermore, since the
30 strain PF1022 belongs to Agonomycetes, it is also not clear whether conventional regulatory DNA sequences used in microorganisms other than genus Aspergillus, such as genus Trichoderma, genus Fusarium, genus Neurospora or the like, can be appropriately expressed.

35 Accordingly, a regulatory sequence and an expression vector system which stably function in Mycelia sterilia, and establishment of technology for producing useful substances in

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

11. (Amended) An expression vector comprising the promoter or the fragment thereof according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1.

12. (Amended) An expression vector comprising the terminator or the fragment thereof of [any one of claims 6 to 10] claim 6.

13. (Amended) An expression vector comprising [the promoter or the fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 5 and the terminator or the fragment thereof of any one of claims 6 to 10] a promoter comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the following sequences, and a fragment thereof having promoter activity:

(a) a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1,

(b) a nucleotide sequence that has at least 70% homology to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and has promoter activity,

(c) a modified nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 that has one or more modifications selected from a substitution, a deletion, an addition and an insertion and has promoter activity, and

(d) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes with a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions and has promoter activity, together with a terminator comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the following sequences, and a fragment thereof having terminator activity:

(e) a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2,

(f) a nucleotide sequence that has at least 70% homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and has terminator activity,

(g) a modified nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 that has one or more modifications selected from a substitution, a deletion, an addition and an insertion and having terminator activity, and

(h) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes with a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 under stringent conditions and has terminator activity.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

15. **(Amended)** The expression vector according to [any one of claims 11 to 14] claim 11, which further comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein of interest, wherein the nucleotide sequence is operably linked to the promoter and/or the terminator.

16. **(Amended)** A host transformed with the expression vector of [any one of claims 11 to 15] claim 15.

18. **(Amended)** A method for producing a protein of interest, which comprises culturing the host of claim 16 [or 17] and collecting the protein of interest from the culture medium.

(12)特許協力条約に基づいて公開された国際出願

(19) 世界知的所有権機関
国際事務局(43) 国際公開日
2001 年 3 月 15 日 (15.03.2001)

PCT

(10) 国際公開番号
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// (C12N 15/80, C12R 1:645) (C12N 1/15, C12R 1:645)
(C12P 21/00, C12R 1:645)(74) 代理人: 佐藤一雄, 外(SATO, Kazuo et al.); 〒100-0005
東京都千代田区丸の内三丁目2番3号 富士ビル323号
協和特許法律事務所 Tokyo (JP).

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特願平11/252851 1999 年 9 月 7 日 (07.09.1999) JP(71) 出願人 (米国を除く全ての指定国について): 明治製
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104-8002 東京都中央区京橋二丁目4番16号 Tokyo (JP).(81) 指定国 (国内): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB,
BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM,
DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL,
IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU,
LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL,
PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ,
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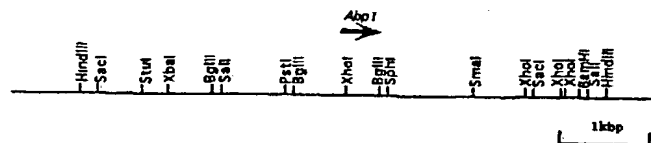
添付公開書類:

— 国際調査報告書

2 文字コード及び他の略語については、定期発行される
各 PCT ガゼットの巻頭に掲載されている「コードと略語
のガイダンスノート」を参照。

(54) Title: REGULATORY SEQUENCES FUNCTIONING IN FILAMENTOUS FUNGI

(54) 発明の名称: 糸状菌において機能する制御配列および発現系

(57) Abstract: A promoter and a terminator functioning synchronously with the expression of an endogenous gene in filamentous fungi belonging to *Agonomycetales* (in particular, *Mycelia sterilia*). The above promoter contains the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1 and its homolog. The above terminator contains the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2 and its homolog. Further, an expression vector highly expressing a target protein in filamentous fungi; a transformed filamentous fungus capable of producing the target protein at a high yield; and a process for producing the target protein in the transformed filamentous fungus; are provided.

[続葉有]

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REGULATORY SEQUENCES AND EXPRESSION SYSTEMS FUNCTIONING IN
FILAMENTOUS FUNGI

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to promoters and terminators which function in filamentous fungi, expression vectors comprising the same, and hosts transformed by said vectors.

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30 strain PF1022 belongs to Agonomycetes, it is also not clear whether conventional regulatory DNA sequences used in microorganisms other than genus Aspergillus, such as genus Trichoderma, genus Fusarium, genus Neurospora or the like, can be appropriately expressed.

35 Accordingly, a regulatory sequence and an expression vector system which stably function in Mycelia sterilia, and establishment of technology for producing useful substances in

Mycelia sterilia using the same are highly desired.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 An objective of the present invention is to provide a regulatory sequence that functionally coordinates with the expression of an endogenous gene in a filamentous fungus that belongs to Agonomycetes, particularly in Mycelia sterilia.

10 Another objective of the present invention is to provide an expression vector that highly expresses a protein of interest in a filamentous fungus that belongs to Agonomycetes, particularly in Mycelia sterilia.

15 Still another objective of the present invention is to provide a process of producing a protein of interest in a filamentous fungus that belongs to Agonomycetes, particularly in Mycelia sterilia.

The present inventors succeeded in isolating and identifying a highly expressing gene (Abpl gene) and its regulatory DNA sequences.

20 The present inventors also succeeded in constructing an expression vector for gene expression using the regulatory DNA sequences thus obtained, introducing this vector into a PF1022-producing microorganism to obtain a transformant, and highly expressing a gene of interest ligated downstream of the promoter of this transformant without making the gene
25 malfunction.

A promoter according to the present invention comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the following sequences, and a fragment thereof having promoter activity:

- 30 (a) a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1,
(b) a nucleotide sequence that has at least 70% homology to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and has promoter activity,
(c) a modified nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 that has one or more modifications selected from a substitution, a
35 deletion, an addition and an insertion and has promoter activity, and
(d) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes with a nucleotide

sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions and has promoter activity.

5 A terminator according to the present invention comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the following sequences, and a fragment thereof having terminator activity:

- (e) a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2,
- (f) a nucleotide sequence that has at least 70% homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and has terminator activity,
- 10 (g) a modified nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 that has one or more modifications selected from a substitution, a deletion, an addition and an insertion and having terminator activity, and
- 15 (h) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes with a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 under stringent conditions and has terminator activity.

20 An expression vector of the present invention comprises either one or both of the abovementioned promoter or a fragment thereof and the above-mentioned terminator or a fragment thereof.

A transformed host according to the present invention is a host transformed with the abovementioned expression vector.

25 A process for producing a substance of interest according to the present invention comprises culturing the above-mentioned transformed host and collecting the protein of interest from the culture medium.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

30 Figure 1 shows a restriction map of a 6 kb HindIII fragment comprising the Abp1 gene.

Figure 2 shows the construction and restriction map for pABPd.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

35 Deposition of microorganism

The strain PF1022 was deposited with the National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology Agency of Industrial Science

and Technology, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (1-3 Higashi 1-Chome, Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan), dated January 24, 1989. The accession number is FERM BP-2671.

Regulatory sequences

5 According to the present invention, there are provided regulatory sequences, namely a promoter and a terminator, which function in a PF1022-producing microorganism.

Sequence (b) can have preferably at least 80%, more preferably at least 90%, or most preferably at least 95% homology
10 to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Sequence (f) can have preferably at least 80%, more preferably at least 90%, or most preferably at least 95% homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

15 In sequences (c) and (g), the number of modifications can be, for example, one to dozens.

In sequences (c) and (g), if multiple modifications are introduced, said modifications may be the same or different.

20 In sequences (d) and (h), the term "stringent conditions" means that a membrane after hybridization is washed at a high temperature in a solution of low salt concentration, for example, at 60°C for 15 minutes in a solution of 0.5 x SSC concentration (1 x SSC: 15 mM trisodium citrate, 150 mM sodium chloride), more preferably at 60°C for 15 minutes in solution of 0.5 x SSC concentration and 0.1% SDS.

25 The length of a fragment having promoter activity can be at least 600 base pairs, preferably at least 800 base pairs, more preferably at least 1000 base pairs, and most preferably at least 1200 base pairs.

30 The length of a fragment having terminator activity can be at least 400 base pairs, preferably at least 600 base pairs, more preferably at least 800 base pairs, and most preferably at least 1000 base pairs.

35 Whether sequences (b), (c) and (d) and fragments having promoter activity "have the promoter activity" or not can be evaluated, for example, by constructing an expression vector as described in Example 3, expressing a heterologous gene in a host as described in Example 4, and detecting the production of a

heterologous protein.

Whether sequences (f), (g) and (h) and fragments having terminator activity "have the terminator activity" or not can be evaluated, for example, by constructing an expression vector as described in Example 3, expressing a heterologous gene in a host as described in Example 4, and detecting the production of a heterologous protein.

A promoter and a terminator according to the present invention can function in a filamentous fungus that is classified into Agonomycetes, particularly a microorganism that belongs to Mycelia, more specifically a microorganism that belongs to Mycelia sterilia.

A promoter and a terminator according to the present invention can function in a PF1022-producing microorganism. An example of the PF1022-producing microorganism is a filamentous fungus that is classified into Agonomycetes producing the substance PF1022.

A promoter and a terminator according to the present invention can be obtained, for example, as follows.

mRNAs of the strain PF1022 are isolated from the cells during substance PF1022 production and cDNAs are synthesized using the isolated mRNAs as a template. The cDNAs are randomly sampled and the DNA sequences of the sampled cDNAs are analyzed to isolate cDNAs derived from a highly expressing gene, namely the Abp1 gene.

A genomic DNA is isolated from the strain PF1022 and cleaved with appropriate restriction enzymes, and a library comprising the genomic DNA of the PF1022-producing microorganism is constructed using a phage vector or a plasmid vector.

The entire length of the Abp1 gene is cloned from the genomic DNA library derived from the strain PF1022 thus prepared using a translation region encoding the Abp1 gene as a probe. The isolated genomic DNA and the DNA sequence of the above-mentioned cDNAs are compared and promoter and terminator sites of this gene are determined to identify a promoter and a terminator.

Expression vectors

The present invention provides an expression vector comprising a regulatory sequence which functions in a PF1022-producing microorganism.

5 The procedure and method for constructing an expression vector according to the present invention can be any of those commonly used in the field of genetic engineering.

 Examples of the expression vector as used herein include vectors which can be incorporated into a host chromosome DNA and
10 vectors having a self-replicable autonomous replication sequence which can be present as a plasmid in a host cell, for example, pUC vectors (e.g., pUC18 and pUC118), pBluescript vectors (e.g., pBluescriptII KS+), and plasmids such as pBR322 plasmid. One or more of copies of the gene can be present in a host cell.

15 An expression vector according to the present invention in the first embodiment comprises a promoter and/or a terminator according to the present invention, and if appropriate, a gene marker and/or other regulatory sequences. Thus, an expression vector comprising either one or both of the promoter and the
20 terminator according to the present invention is within the scope of the present invention.

 An expression vector that at least comprises the promoter according to the present invention can comprise a terminator other than the terminator according to the present invention.

25 An expression vector that at least comprises the terminator according to the present invention can comprise a promoter other than the promoter according to the present invention.

 A gene marker can be introduced, for example, by introducing an appropriate restriction enzyme cleaving site into
30 a regulatory sequence of the present invention by the PCR method, inserting this into a plasmid vector, and ligating a selective marker gene such as a drug resistance gene and/or a gene complementing a nutritional requirement.

 A gene marker can be appropriately selected depending on
35 the technique for selecting a transformant. For example, a gene encoding drug resistance or a gene complementing a nutritional requirement can be used. Examples of the drug resistance gene

include genes conferring resistance to destomycin, benomyl, oligomycin, hygromycin, G418, bleomycin, bialaphos, blastcidin S, phleomycin, phosphinothricin, ampicillin, and kanamycin. Examples of the gene complementing a nutritional requirement
5 include amdS, pyrG, argB, trpC, niaD, TRP1, LEU2, URA3 and the like.

An expression vector according to the present invention in the second embodiment can further comprise a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein of interest, which is operably linked
10 to a regulatory sequence.

The ligation to a regulatory sequence can be carried out, for example, according to an ordinary method by inserting a translation region of a gene encoding a protein of interest (gene of interest) downstream of a promoter in the right direction.
15 In this case, the protein can be expressed as a fusion protein by ligating the gene of interest with a foreign gene encoding a translation region of another protein. In the present specification, the term "gene of interest" means a given gene to be subjected to expression and can be either a heterologous
20 gene or a homologous gene. The gene of interest can be, for example, a gene selected from a group related to the production of substance PF1022.

Production of transformant and protein of interest

The present invention provides a host transformed with the
25 above-mentioned expression vector. A host to be used in the present invention is not particularly restricted and any microorganism which can be used as a host for genetic recombination, for example, a filamentous fungus, preferably a filamentous fungus classified into Agonomycetes, more preferably
30 a microorganism that belongs to Mycelia, most preferably a microorganism that belongs to Mycelia sterilia, can be used. Examples of the host to be used in the present invention include a PF1022-producing microorganism, preferably a filamentous fungus producing substance PF1022, more preferably the strain
35 PF1022 (FERM BP-2671) producing substance PF1022.

A recombinant vector for the gene expression can be introduced into a host by an ordinary method. Examples of the

method for the introduction include the electroporation method, the polyethylene glycol method, the aglobacterium method, the lithium method, and the calcium chloride method. A method suitable to each host cell can be selected. The polyethylene glycol method is preferable when a PF1022-producing microorganism is used as a host.

The present invention provides a process for producing a protein of interest including a step of culturing the above-mentioned transformant.

10 A transformant can be cultured according to an ordinary method by using a medium, culture conditions and the like, which are appropriately selected. Conventional components can be used for a medium. As a carbon source, glucose, sucrose, cellulose, starch syrup, dextrin, starch, glycerol, molasses, animal and vegetable oils, and the like can be used. As a nitrogen source, 15 soybean powder, wheat germ, pharma media, cornsteep liquor, cotton seed lees, bouillon, peptone, polypeptone, malt extract, ammonium sulfate, sodium nitrate, urea, and the like can be used. If necessary, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, cobalt, 20 chlorine, phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, and other inorganic salts that can produce ions, such as potassium chloride, calcium carbonate, dipotassium hydrogenphosphate, magnesium sulfate, monopotassium phosphate, zinc sulfate, manganese sulfate, and copper sulfate, can be effectively added. If necessary, various 25 vitamins such as thiamine (e.g., thiamine hydrochloride), amino acids such as glutamic acid (e.g., sodium glutamate) and asparagine (e.g., DL-asparagine), trace nutrients such as nucleotides, and selective drugs such as antibiotics can be added. Further, organic and inorganic substances to promote the growth of microorganisms and enhance the production of cyclic 30 depsipeptide can be appropriately added.

The cultivation can be carried out in a liquid medium by a culture method under an aerobic condition, a shaking culture method, an agitation culture method with aeration, or a submerged 35 culture method. The pH of the medium is, for example, about 6 to 8. The cultivation can be carried out at a normal temperature, such as 14°C to 40°C, preferably 26°C to 37°C, for about 2 to 25

days.

Furthermore, in a process of producing a protein of interest according to the present invention, the protein of interest, namely the gene expression product, can be obtained from the culture of transformed cells. The protein of interest can be extracted from the culture (e.g., by mashing, and crushing under pressure), recovered (e.g., by filtration, and centrifugation), and purified (e.g., by salting out, and solvent precipitation). Furthermore, in these steps, a protease inhibitor such as phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF), benzamidine and leupeptin can be added, if necessary.

EXAMPLE

The present invention is further illustrated by the following examples that are not intended as a limitation of the invention.

Example 1: Search for a highly expressing gene by random sequencing of cDNA

In order to search for a highly expressing gene in a substance PF1022-producing microorganism, cDNAs derived from the substance PF1022-producing microorganism were randomly cloned, DNA sequences of the products were compared, and a gene which was highly expressed was isolated and identified.

(1) Preparation of cDNA derived from a substance PF1022-producing microorganism

The strain PF1022 (FERM BP-2671) was cultured in a production medium (2.0% glucose, 5.0% starch, 0.8% wheat germ, 1.3% soybean cake, 0.38% meat extract, 0.13% sodium chloride, and 0.15% calcium carbonate; pH 7.0 before sterilization; see Example 4 in WO97/00944) at 26°C for 4 days, and the resulting cells were recovered by centrifugation (3000 rpm, 10 minutes). The cells were washed with purified water, frozen at -80°C, and then smashed with a blender (AM-3, Nippon Seiki Industry Co., Ltd.) under the presence of liquid nitrogen. The resulting smashed cells were suspended in a denaturation solution (4 M guanidine thiocyanate, 25 mM trisodium citrate, 0.5% sodium N-lauryl sarcosinate, 0.1M mercapto ethanol), the suspension was

stirred at room temperature for 5 minutes and then neutralized with 2 M sodium citrate (pH 4.5), TE-saturated phenol was added, and the resulting admixture was further stirred. Chloroform-isoamyl alcohol (24:1) was added to the admixture and after
5 stirring, the cell component denatured with phenol was isolated by centrifugation. The upper layer (aqueous layer) was recovered, and the nucleic acid was precipitated with isopropanol. The precipitate was dissolved in a TE solution (10 mM tris-hydrochloric acid (pH 8.0), 1 mM EDTA) to a nucleic acid
10 concentration of 1 mg/ml and then precipitated with 2.5 M lithium chloride (5°C, 2 hours). The resulting precipitate was recovered by centrifugation, washed with 70% ethanol and redissolved in a TE solution to obtain the total RNA fraction.

From this total RNA fraction, mRNA was purified using an
15 mRNA purification kit (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech). Further, cDNA was synthesized using this mRNA as a template using a Timesaver cDNA synthesis kit (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech).

(2) Random Sequencing of cDNA

The cDNA prepared in Example 1 (1) was cleaved with EcoRI,
20 after which ligation to pUC18 treated with alkaline phosphatase was carried out using a DNA ligation kit Ver. 2 (Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.). Transformation was carried out with E.coli JM109 strain and various transformed colonies were cultured in an LB medium (1% polypeptone, 0.5% yeast extract, 1% sodium chloride)
25 supplemented with ampicillin. Plasmids from these transformants were purified using a FlexiPrep kit (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech).

Forty kinds of plasmids prepared as described above were subjected to an ALF DNA sequencer II (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech) and the DNA sequences of inserted fragments were analyzed. The
30 sequence gel used was Long Ranger (FMC Co.) and the sequencing reaction was carried out using an Autoread sequencing kit (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech).

As a result, ten kinds of clones were found to have an identical DNA sequence. The cloned gene was named Abp1, and the
35 promoter and the terminator of this gene were to be cloned from the genomic DNA.

(3) Isolation of genomic DNA of substance PF1022-producing

microorganism

The genomic DNA of the strain PF1022 was isolated according to the method of Horiuchi et al. (H. Horiuchi et al., J. Bacteriol., 170, 272-278, 1988). More specifically, cells of substance
5 PF1022-producing strain (FERM BP-2671) were cultured for 2 days in a seed medium (2.0% soluble starch, 1.0% glucose, 0.5% polypeptone, 0.6% wheat germ, 0.3% yeast extract, 0.2% soybean cake, and 0.2% calcium carbonate; pH 7.0 before sterilization; see Example 1 in WO97/00944) and the cells were recovered by
10 centrifugation (3500 rpm, 10 minutes). The cells thus obtained were lyophilized and then suspended in a TE solution, treated in a 3% SDS solution at 60°C for 30 minutes, and then subjected to TE-saturated phenol extraction to remove the cell residue. The extract was precipitated with ethanol and treated with
15 ribonuclease A (Sigma) and proteinase K (Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd.), and then the nucleic acid was precipitated with 12% polyethylene glycol 6000. The precipitate was subjected to TE-saturated phenol extraction and ethanol precipitation, and the resulting precipitate was dissolved in a TE solution to obtain
20 the genomic DNA.

(4) Construction of genomic DNA library of substance PF1022-producing microorganism

The genomic DNA derived from the substance PF1022-producing microorganism prepared in Example 1 (3) was partially
25 digested with Sau3AI. The product was ligated to the BamHI arm of a phage vector, λ EMBL3 cloning kit (Stratagene Co.) using T4 ligase (Ligation Kit Ver. 2; Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.). After ethanol precipitation, the precipitate was dissolved in a TE solution. The entire ligated mixture was used to infect E.coli
30 LE392 strain using a Gigapack II Plus Packaging kit (Stratagene Co.) to form a phage plaque. The 1.3×10^4 (2.6×10^4 PFU/ml) phage library obtained by this method was used for cloning of the Abp1 gene.

(5) Cloning of the Abp1 gene from the genomic DNA derived from
35 substance PF1022-producing microorganism

A probe to be used was prepared by amplifying the translation region of the Abp1 gene by the PCR method. The PCR

was carried out using the genomic DNA prepared in Example 1 (3) as a template and synthesis primers 8-73U and 8-73R according to a LETS GO PCR kit (SAWADY Technology). The PCR reaction for amplification was conducted by repeating 25 cycles of 30 seconds at 94°C, 30 seconds at 50°C, and 90 seconds at 72°C. DNA sequences of the 8-73U and 8-73R are as follows:

8-73U: CACAAACCAGGAAGTCTTTC (SEQ ID NO: 7)

8-73R: GACATGTGGAAACACATTTTG (SEQ ID NO: 8)

The PCR product thus obtained was labeled using an ECL Direct System (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech). The phage plaque prepared in Example 1 (4) was transferred to a Hibond N+ nylon transfer membrane (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech), and after alkaline denaturation, the membrane was washed with 5-fold concentration SSC (SSC: 15 mM trisodium citrate, 150 mM sodium chloride), and dried to immobilize the DNA. According to the kit protocol, prehybridization (42°C) was carried out for 1 hour, after which the previously labeled probe was added and hybridization was carried out at 42°C for 16 hours. The probe was washed according to the kit protocol above. The nylon membrane used with the washed probe was immersed for one minute in a detection solution, and was then photosensitized on a medical X-ray film (Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.) to obtain one positive clone. Southern blot analysis of this clone showed that a HindIII fragment of at least 6 kb was identical with the restriction enzyme fragment of the genomic DNA. Figure 1 shows the restriction map of this HindIII fragment. The HindIII fragment was subcloned in pUC119 to obtain pRQHin/119 for the following experiment.

Example 2: Determination of DNA sequences of promoter and terminator of Abpl gene

A template for DNA sequence analysis was prepared by digesting pRQHin/119 with SalI and SmaI and ligating the resultant fragment with pUC18 previously digested with the same restriction enzymes. The DNA sequence analysis was carried out in the same manner as described in Example 1 (2). Next, the DNA sequence thus obtained was compared with that of cDNA obtained in Example 1 (2), and sequences of the promoter and terminator regions of the Abpl gene were determined. The resulting DNA sequences are shown

in SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2.

Example 3: Construction of expression vector using the expression regulatory region of the Abp1 gene

The promoter region and the terminator region of the *Abp1* gene were amplified by the PCR method using pRQHin/119 as a template. The PCR method was carried out using PCR Super Mix High Fidelity (Lifetech Oriental Co., Ltd.) with primers ABP-Neco and ABP-Nbam for promoter amplification and ABP-Cbam and ABP-Cxba for terminator amplification. The amplification reaction was conducted by repeating 25 cycles of 30 seconds at 94°C, 30 seconds at 50°C and 90 seconds at 72°C. The DNA sequences of ABP-Neco, ABP-Nbam, ABP-Cbam and ABP-Cxba are as follows:

ABP-Neco: GGGGAATTCGTGGGTGGTGATATCATGGC (SEQ ID NO: 3)

ABP-Nbam: GGGGGATCCTTGATGGGTTTGGG (SEQ ID NO: 4)

15 ABP-Cbam: GGGGGATCCTAAACTCCCATCTATAGC (SEQ ID NO: 5)

ABP-Cxba: GGGTCTAGACGACTCATTGCAGTGAGTGG (SEQ ID NO: 6)

Each PCR product was purified with a Microspin S-400 column (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech) and precipitated with ethanol, after which the promoter was digested with *EcoRI* and *BamHI*, the terminator was digested with *BamHI* and *XbaI*, and the resulting fragments were ligated one by one with pBleuscriptII KS+ previously digested with the same enzymes. The product was digested with *XbaI*, and a destomycin resistance cassette derived from pMKD01 (W098/03667) was inserted to construct pABPd (Figure 2).

Example 4: Confirmation of ability of expression vector using β -glucuronidase gene

The translation region of the β -glucuronidase (GUS) gene used as a reporter gene was obtained by digesting pLC-GUS (K. Yanai, et al., Biosci. Biotech. Biochem., 60, 472-475, 1996) with *BamHI*. This fragment was ligated with pABPd which was previously digested with *BamHI* and treated with alkaline phosphatase to construct plasmid pABPd-G in which the GUS gene was inserted downstream of the *Abp1* promoter.

35 The microorganism producing substance PF1022 (FERM BP-2671) was transformed with pABPd-G according to the method described in Example 1 of W097/00944. As a result, about three

transformants per 1 μ g of DNA were obtained.

The transformants thus obtained were cultured in a liquid using the production medium of Example 1 (1) and the cells were recovered by centrifugation. The resultant cells were disrupted using a Mini-Bead beater (Biospeck Products). Cell debris was removed by centrifugation and the supernatant was measured for GUS activity. The activity was measured by the method described in K. Yanai, et al., Biosci. Biotech. Biochem., 60, 472-475, 1996.

Results in Table 1 evidently confirmed that only the pABPd-G transformants had marked GUS activity. Namely, it was confirmed that the expression vector pABPd effectively functions in the substance PF1022-producing microorganism.

Table 1: GUS Activity of Transformants

	Expression vector	GUS activity (A405/ μ g protein)
Transformant	pABPd-G	756.9
Transformant	pABPd-G	832.5
Transformant	pABPd	0.0
Host	-	0.0

CLAIMS

1. A promoter comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the following sequences, and a fragment thereof having promoter activity:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence that has at least 70% homology to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and has promoter activity,
- (c) a modified nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 that has one or more modifications selected from a substitution, a deletion, an addition and an insertion and has promoter activity, and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes with a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions and has promoter activity.

2. The promoter according to claim 1, wherein sequence (b) is a nucleotide sequence having at least 80% homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

3. The promoter according to claim 1, wherein sequence (b) is a nucleotide sequence having at least 90% homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

4. The promoter according to claim 1, which functions in a filamentous fungus that belongs to Agonomycetes.

5. The promoter according to claim 1, wherein the length of the fragment having promoter activity is at least 600 bp.

6. A terminator comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the following sequences, and a fragment thereof having terminator activity:

- (e) a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2,
- (f) a nucleotide sequence that has at least 70% homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and has terminator activity,

- (g) a modified nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 that has one or more modifications selected from a substitution, a deletion, an addition and an insertion and having terminator activity, and
- (h) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes with a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 under stringent conditions and has terminator activity.

7. The terminator according to claim 6, wherein sequence (f) is a nucleotide sequence having at least 80% homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

8. The terminator according to claim 6, wherein sequence (f) is a nucleotide sequence having at least 90% homology to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

9. The terminator according to claim 6, which functions in a filamentous fungus that belongs to Agonomycetes.

10. The terminator according to claim 6, wherein the length of the fragment having terminator activity is at least 400 bp.

11. An expression vector comprising the promoter or the fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 5.

12. An expression vector comprising the terminator or the fragment thereof of any one of claims 6 to 10.

13. An expression vector comprising the promoter or the fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 5 and the terminator or the fragment thereof of any one of claims 6 to 10.

14. The expression vector according to claim 13, wherein the expression vector is pABPd.

15. The expression vector according to any one of claims

11 to 14, which further comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein of interest, wherein the nucleotide sequence is operably linked to the promoter and/or the terminator.

16. A host transformed with the expression vector of any one of claims 11 to 15.

17. The host according to claim 16, wherein the host is Mycelia sterilia.

18. A method for producing a protein of interest, which comprises culturing the host of claim 16 or 17 and collecting the protein of interest from the culture medium.

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a promoter and a terminator which coordinately function with the expression of an endogenous gene
5 in a filamentous fungus that belongs to Agonomycetes, particularly in Mycelia sterilia. A promoter of the present invention comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a homologue thereof. A terminator of the present invention comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and a homologue
10 thereof. The present invention further provides an expression vector that highly expresses a protein of interest in a filamentous fungus, a transformed filamentous fungus that highly produces a protein of interest, and a process of producing the protein of interest in the transformed filamentous fungus.

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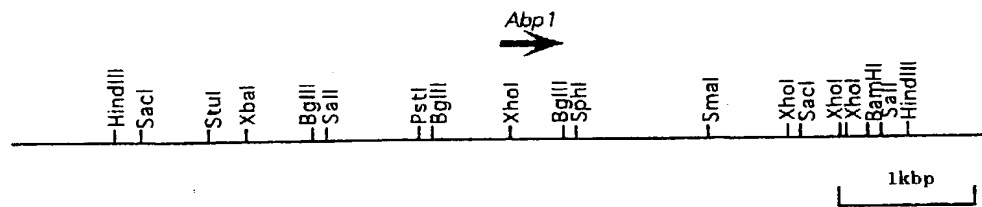


FIG. 1

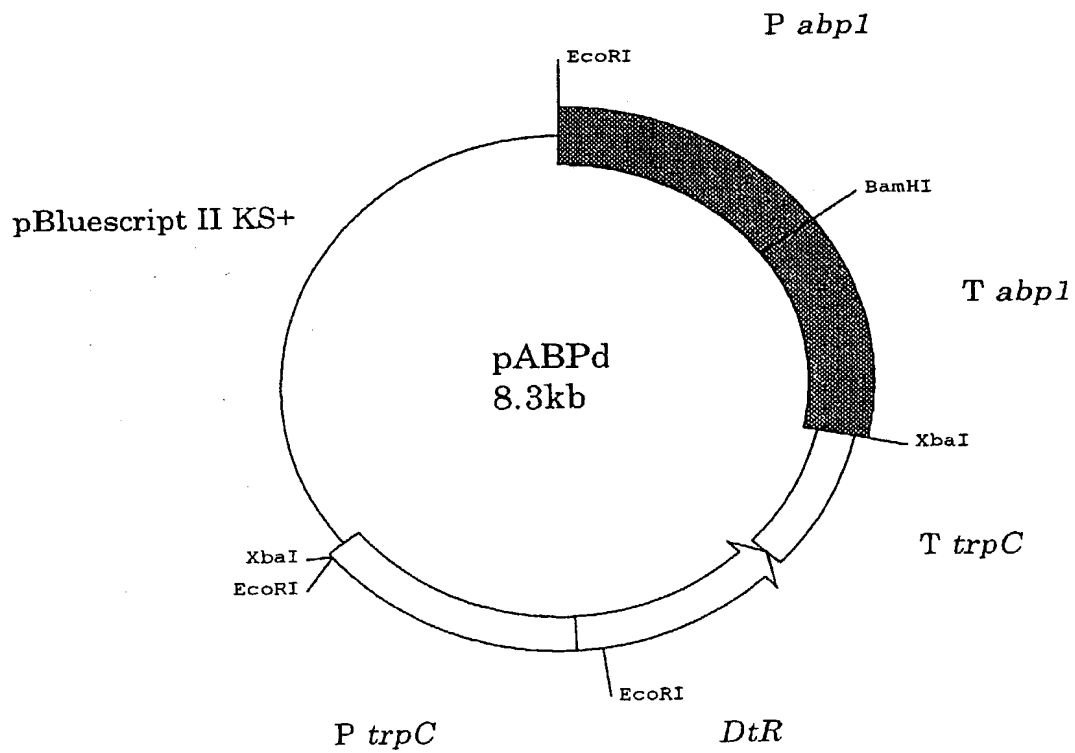


FIG. 2

659

Attorney's Ref. No.:

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特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

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I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

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the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☒ was filed on 07/September/2000
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PCT/JP00/06104 and was amended on
(if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

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Prior Foreign Application(s)

外国での先行出願

Priority Not Claimed

優先権主張なし

11-252851

Japan

07/September/1999

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

(番号)

(国名)

(出願年月日)



Japan

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

(番号)

(国名)

(出願年月日)



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(Application No.)

(出願番号)

(Filing Date)

(出願日)

(Application No.)

(出願番号)

(Filing Date)

(出願日)

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(Application No.)

(出願番号)

(Filing Date)

(出願日)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)

(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

(Application No.)

(出願番号)

(Filing Date)

(出願日)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)

(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

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Full name of sole or first inventor

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発明者の署名

日付

Inventor's signature

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Full name of second joint inventor, if any

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日付

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Date

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(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

SEQUENCE LISTING

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3/7

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